IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Robert J Ratterman et al.

Title: DETERMINING A COMMUNITY RATING FOR A USER USING FEEDBACK RATINGS OF
RELATED USERS IN AN ELECTRONIC ENVIRONMENT

Docket No.:   2043.002US1
Filed: February 14, 2000
Examiner: Beth Van Doren

Serial No.: 09/503,960
Due Date: July 28, 2007
Group Art Unit: 3623

MS Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

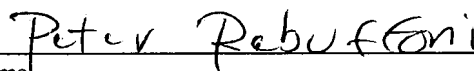We are transmitting herewith the following attached items (as indicated with an "X"):

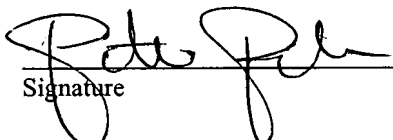X   Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief (6 pgs.).
X   Return postcard.

If not provided for in a separate paper filed herewith, Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for sufficient number of months to enter these papers and please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
Customer Number 49845

By: _____
Jun Wei
Reg. No. 55,717

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Appeal Brief - Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 12 day of July, 2007.

____Peter Rebuffoni_____   _____
Name   Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Robert J Ratterman et al.	Examiner: Beth Van Doren
Serial No.:	09/503,960	Group Art Unit: 3623
Filed:	February 14, 2000	Docket: 2043.002US1
Title:	DETERMINING A COMMUNICATING FOR A USER USING FEEDBACK RATINGS OF RELATED USERS IN AN ELECTRONIC ENVIRONMENT	

(JUL 16 2007 stamp)

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF

MS Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This responds to the Notice of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief mailed on June 28, 2007. In compliance with MPEP 1205.03(B) and 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(v), Appellants submit the following corrected section from Appellants' previously-submitted Appeal Brief filed May 23, 2007, replacing the previous Appeal Brief filed January 16, 2007.

Please replace the previously-submitted Summary of Claimed Subject Matter Section 5 with the below replacement.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Some aspects of the present inventive subject matter include, but are not limited to, rating systems and user feedback mechanisms for use in electronic environments where user feedback may be provided. Multiple independent method, system and computer readable medium claims along with their respective dependent claims accordingly cover at least these aspects.

Independent claim 1 recites a method including associating one or more characteristic values with each user of a plurality of users of an online trading community, the one or more characteristic values represent an individual rating associated with each user. The method then derives a community rating (e.g., see pg. 6, ln. 8-20) uniquely corresponding to a particular user by aggregating the one or more characteristic values associated with the particular user and the one or more characteristic values associated with one or more users referred by the particular user to the online trading community (e.g., see Fig. 2, pg. 8, ln. 14-23, pg. 9, ln. 11-24, Fig. 6A, pg. 15, ln. 13-24).

Independent claim 14 recites a machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sets of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to (e.g., Fig. 3, memory 365, storage devices 370, pg. 11, ln. 1-24) associate one or more characteristic values with each user of a plurality of users of an online trading community, the one or more characteristic values (e.g., see pg. 6, ln. 8-20) representing an individual rating associated with each user, and to derive a community rating uniquely corresponding to a particular user by aggregating the one or more characteristic values associated with the particular user and the one or more characteristic values associated with one or more users referred by the particular user to the online trading community (e.g., see Fig. 2, pg. 8, ln. 14-23, pg. 9, ln. 11-24, Fig. 6A, pg. 15, ln. 13-24).

Independent claim 22 recites a method including associating a first characteristic value with a first user of a plurality of users within an online trading community, the first characteristic

value being obtained for the first user utilizing a first feedback value based on feedback received

concerning the first user from other users of the plurality of users. Then associating a second

characteristic value with a second user of the plurality of users, wherein the second user is

referred to the online trading community by the first user, the second characteristic value being

obtained for the second user utilizing a second feedback value based on feedback received

concerning the second user from other users of the plurality of users, and deriving a first

community rating for the first user by utilizing an aggregation of the first characteristic value and

the second characteristic value (e.g., see Fig. 2, pg. 8, ln. 14-23, pg. 9, ln. 11-24, Fig. 6A, pg. 15,

ln. 13-24 and Fig. 6B, pg. 16, ln. 1-24).

Independent claim 28 recites a machine-readable medium having stored thereon data

representing sets of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to (e.g.,

Fig. 3, memory 365, storage devices 370, pg. 11, ln. 1-24) associate a first characteristic value

with a first user of a plurality of users within an online trading community, the first characteristic

value is obtained for the first user by utilizing a first feedback value based on feedback received

concerning the first user from other users of the plurality of users, associate a second

characteristic value with a second user of the plurality of users, wherein the second user is

referred to the online trading community by the first user, the second characteristic value is

obtained for the second user by utilizing a second feedback value based on feedback received

concerning the second user from other users of the plurality of users, and derive a first

community rating for the first user by utilizing an aggregation of the first characteristic value and

the second characteristic value (e.g., see Fig. 2, pg. 8, ln. 14-23, pg. 9, ln. 11-24, Fig. 6A, pg. 15,

ln. 13-24 and Fig. 6B, pg. 16, ln. 1-24).

Independent claim 33 recites a system including a first storage medium (e.g., Fig. 3,

memory 365, storage devices 370, pg. 11, ln. 1-24 and data structure 430 of Fig. 4, pg. 13, ln. 14-

18) and a first computer (e.g., Figs. 3 and 4, server computer 305, pg. 12, ln. 1-24 and Fig. 4, pg.

13, ln. 5-18) coupled with the first storage medium. The first computer associates one or more

characteristic values with each user of a plurality of users of an online trading community, in

which the one or more characteristic values representing an individual rating associated with

each user (e.g., see pg. 6, ln. 8-20), and the first computer also derives a community rating

uniquely corresponding to a particular user by aggregating the one or more characteristic values

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF
Serial Number: 09/503,960
Filing Date: February 14, 2000
Title: DETERMINING A COMMUNITY RATING FOR A USER USING FEEDBACK RATINGS OF RELATED USERS IN AN ELECTRONIC
ENVIRONMENT

Page 4
Dkt: 2043.002US1

associated with the particular user and the one or more characteristic values associated with one or more users referred by the particular user to the online trading community (e.g., see Fig. 2, pg. 8, ln. 14-23, pg. 9, ln. 11-24, Fig. 6A, pg. 15, ln. 13-24).

Independent claim 42 recites a method including associating one or more characteristic values with each user of a plurality of users of an online trading community, the one or more characteristic values representing an individual rating associated with each user (e.g., see pg. 6, ln. 8-20). The method then determines a community rating uniquely corresponding to a particular user (e.g., see Fig. 2, pg. 8, ln. 14-23, pg. 9, ln. 11-24, Fig. 6A, pg. 15, ln. 13-24 and Fig. 6B, pg. 16, ln. 1-24) by utilizing one or more of the following: (1) one or more characteristic values associated with the particular user (e.g., see Fig. 2, elements 134 and 234), (2) one or more characteristic values associated with each user of the plurality of users referred to the online trading community by the particular user (e.g., see Fig. 2, users 125 and 126), (3) one or more characteristic values associated with each user referred to the online trading community by each referred user of the particular user (e.g., see Fig. 2, users 121-123, 127), and (4) a number of users referred to the online community by the particular user (see Fig. 2, users 121-127).

Independent claim 48 recites a system including a first storage medium (e.g., Fig. 3, memory 365, storage devices 370, pg. 11, ln. 1-24 and data structure 430 of Fig. 4, pg. 13, ln. 14-18) and a first computer (e.g., Figs. 3 and 4, server computer 305, pg. 12, ln. 1-24 and Fig. 4, pg. 13, ln. 5-18) coupled with the first storage medium, the first computer to associating one or more characteristic values with each user of a plurality of users of an online trading community, the one or more characteristic values representing an individual rating associated with each user (e.g., see pg. 6, ln. 8-20) and determining a community rating uniquely corresponding to a particular user by utilizing one or more of the following: (1) one or more characteristic values associated with the particular user (e.g., see Fig. 2, elements 134 and 234), (2) one or more characteristic values associated with each user of the plurality of users referred to the online trading community by the particular user (e.g., see Fig. 2, users 125 and 126), (3) one or more characteristic values associated with each user referred to the online trading community by each referred user of the particular user (e.g., see Fig. 2, users 121-123, 127), and (4) a number of users referred to the online community by the particular user (see Fig. 2, users 121-127).

Independent claim 55 recites a machine-readable medium having stored thereon data

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF   **Page 5**
Serial Number: 09/503,960   Dkt: 2043.002US1
Filing Date: February 14, 2000
Title: DETERMINING A COMMUNITY RATING FOR A USER USING FEEDBACK RATINGS OF RELATED USERS IN AN ELECTRONIC
        ENVIRONMENT

representing sets of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to (e.g.,

Fig. 3, memory 365, storage devices 370, pg. 11, ln. 1-24) associate one or more characteristic

values with each user of a plurality of users of an online trading community, the one or more

characteristic values representing an individual rating associated with each user (e.g., see pg. 6,

ln. 8-20), and to determine a community rating uniquely corresponding to a particular user by

utilizing one or more of the following: (1) one or more characteristic values associated with the

particular user (e.g., see Fig. 2, elements 134 and 234), (2) one or more characteristic values

associated with each user of the plurality of users referred to the online trading community by the

particular user (e.g., see Fig. 2, users 125 and 126), (3) one or more characteristic values

associated with each user referred to the online trading community by each referred user of the

particular user (e.g., see Fig. 2, users 121-123, 127), and (4) a number of users referred to the

online community by the particular user (see Fig. 2, users 121-127).

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF
Serial Number: 09/503,960
Filing Date: February 14, 2000
Title: DETERMINING A COMMUNITY RATING FOR A USER USING FEEDBACK RATINGS OF RELATED USERS IN AN ELECTRONIC
ENVIRONMENT

Page 6
Dkt: 2043.002US1

CONCLUSION

In accordance with MPEP 1205.03(B) and 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(v), only the non-compliant section of Appellants' previously-submitted Appeal Brief has been included in this response.

Appellants respectfully submit that the Examiner withdraw the non-compliant status and examine the Appeal Brief.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT J RATTERMAN ET AL.

By their Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
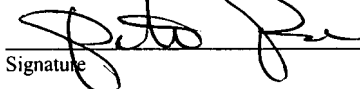Minneapolis, MN 55402
612-373-6900

Date ___7/12/2007___ By _____
Jun Wei
Reg. No. 55,717